

SECRET INVASION™

MARVEL

**LIMITED
SERIES**

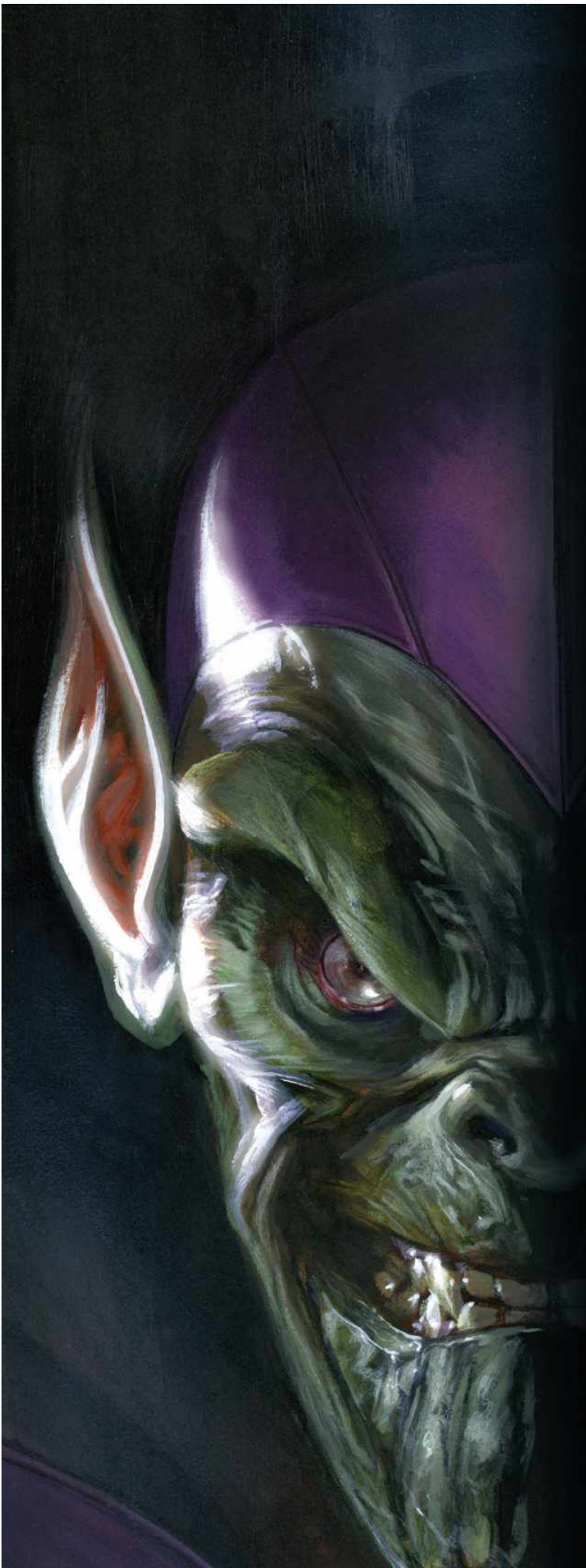
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**CAREY
SEPULVEDA**

X-MEN®



**MANIFEST
DESTINY**

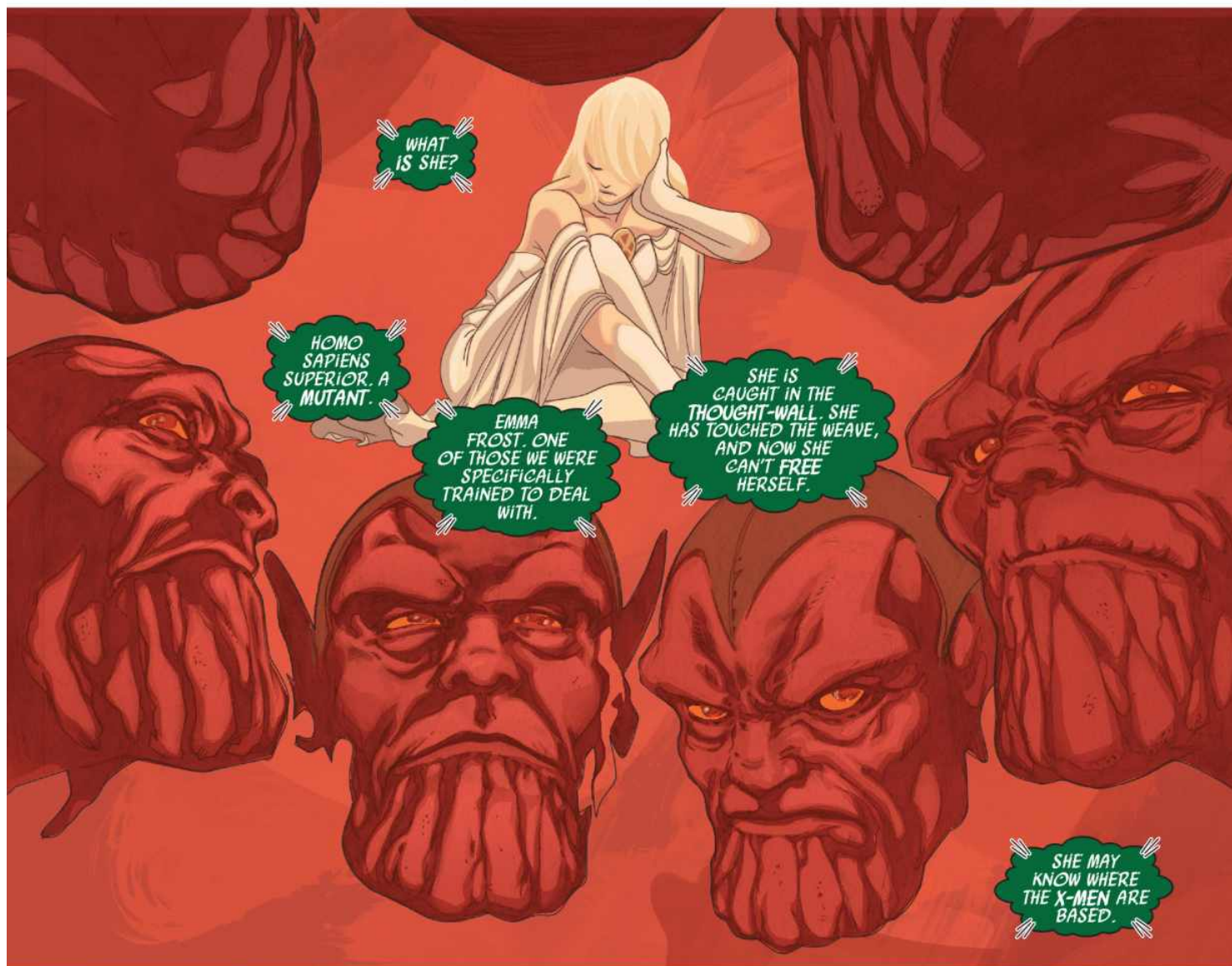


PREVIOUSLY...

The shape-shifting alien Skrulls have begun their invasion of Earth. Although they expected heavy resistance along America's east coast, home to many of Earth's mightiest heroes, they expected little in the American west. But the Skrulls were unaware that the X-Men had relocated to San Francisco in an effort to find a new haven for the remnants of mutantkind. Caught by surprise, the Skrulls took heavy casualties in their first offensive. But after the Skrulls initiated a psychic blackout across the globe, the X-Men were cut off from reinforcements, while the Skrulls regrouped and added Super-Skrulls to their ranks.

Now, as Emma Frost attempts to lift the psychic blockade, Beast examines a Super-Skrull recently delivered to him courtesy of Cyclops' secret strike team—the X-Force.

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THIS IS A
DISTRACTION.

NO, A
PROVOCATION.

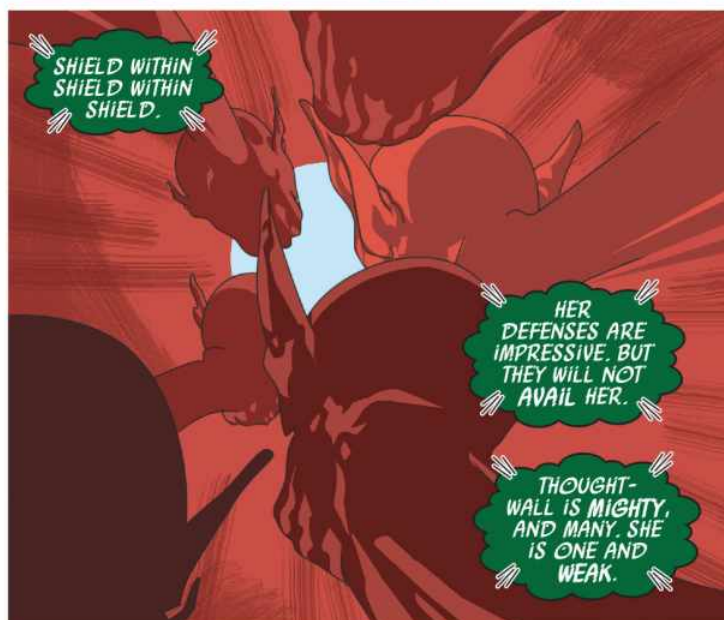
SHE DEFIES
THOUGHT-WALL.
SHE REJECTS
HIS LOVE.



IT IS NOT
PERMITTED. SHE
KNOWS WHERE
THE X-MEN ARE
BASED.

SHE
WILL TELL
US.

SHE WILL
BE EMPTIED
INTO US.



SHIELD WITHIN
SHIELD WITHIN
SHIELD.

HER
DEFENSES ARE
IMPRESSIVE, BUT
THEY WILL NOT
AVAIL HER.

THOUGHT-
WALL IS MIGHTY,
AND MANY. SHE
IS ONE AND
WEAK.



THERE! DID
YOU THINK YOU
COULD HIDE
FROM US,
WOMAN?

IN OUR OWN
MINDSCAPE?



NO. I
JUST WANTED TO
SPREAD
YOU OUT A
LITTLE.









I'M NOT LISTENING TO YOU!

YOUR HEART AND YOUR SOUL HEAR ME.

THAT WILL SUFFICE



THE NATION THAT JUDGES THEE, HE WILL CAUSE TO BE JUDGED.

HE FATHERED THEE, AND HE TENDERS THEE DEARLY. FOR THAT WHICH CHANGES IS HOLY.

HE WILL MAKE THEE A PRINCE OF THIS WORLD, AND RAISE THEE ABOVE THINE ENEMIES.

THEIR FLESH WILL BE BROKEN AND THEIR SPIRIT TORMENTED. BUT THE MUTANTS AND THE SKRULLS-- HIS CHILDREN--WILL BE EXALTED OVER ALL OTHERS.



OUR--OUR FATHER--

--WHICH ART IN HEAVEN.





654/13
095 095
09505.
095
09505!



IT'S ALL RIGHT, SARAH. IT'S ALL RIGHT.
THEY WON'T *HURT* US. THEY JUST--THEY JUST NEED TO COUNT HOW *MANY* OF US THERE ARE.



APPLY
UNIVERSAL
SEALANT TO
ALL DOORS AND
WINDOWS.
MAKE
SURE NOBODY
CAN ENTER OR
LEAVE.









Toxicology summary.
Skrull tissue
responds to poisons
by incorporating them.

And radiation just speeds
up the intracellular change
that's always present.



Scott asked me to
find a doomsday device.
An ace in the hole.

But what if the
Super-Skrulls
have no weakness
we can exploit?

What if they
really are
as perfect as
they seem?



Test series
28. Low-frequency
subsonics.

HANK,
DO YOU HAVE
A MOMENT TO
TALK?

ONLY
ABOUT SKRULLS,
KURT.



IT IS
ABOUT SKRULLS,
MEIN FREUND.

AND I
WOULDN'T
TROUBLE YOU
NOW IF I WEREN'T
DESPERATE.



I FOUND THIS *CRYSTAL*.
IT'S SOME KIND OF
SKRULL A.I., BUT IT CALLS
ITSELF A *BIBLE*. A
SACRED TEXT.

CALLS
ITSELF...?

IT TALKS
TO THE USER
TELEPATHICALLY.



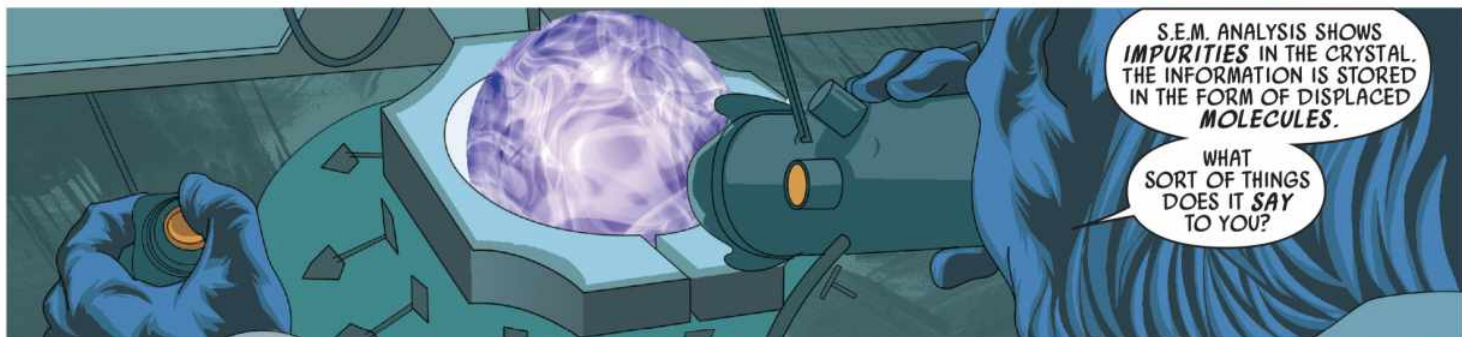
AND NOW
I CAN'T MAKE
IT STOP.



PUT IT
DOWN ON THE
BENCH.

DOES IT MAKE
A DIFFERENCE
WHETHER YOU'RE
HOLDING IT
OR NOT?

NEIN. THE
VOICE INSIDE MY
HEAD IS JUST
AS LOUD.



S.E.M. ANALYSIS SHOWS
IMPURITIES IN THE CRYSTAL.
THE INFORMATION IS STORED
IN THE FORM OF DISPLACED
MOLECULES.

WHAT
SORT OF THINGS
DOES IT SAY
TO YOU?



IT TRIES TO **CONVERT**
ME TO THE SKRULL RELIGION.
TO ACCEPT THE **LOVE**
OF THEIR SUPREME
BEING.

IT KEEPS SAYING THAT
WE'RE--**COUSINS**. THAT
SKRULLS AND MUTANTS
BELONG ON THE
SAME SIDE.

THE
SAME SIDE?
WHY?

SOMETHING
TO DO WITH
CHANGE. "THAT
WHICH CHANGES
IS HOLY."

MUTANTS
ARE ALTERED
HUMANS. **DEVIATIONS**
FROM A TEMPLATE.
AND SKRULLS--



SKRULLS CHANGE
THEIR **SHAPE** AS EASILY
AS WE CHANGE
OUR SOCKS.

OH
NO. NO NO NO.
IT COULDN'T BE
THAT **OBVIOUS**,
COULD IT?

WAS
IST--?



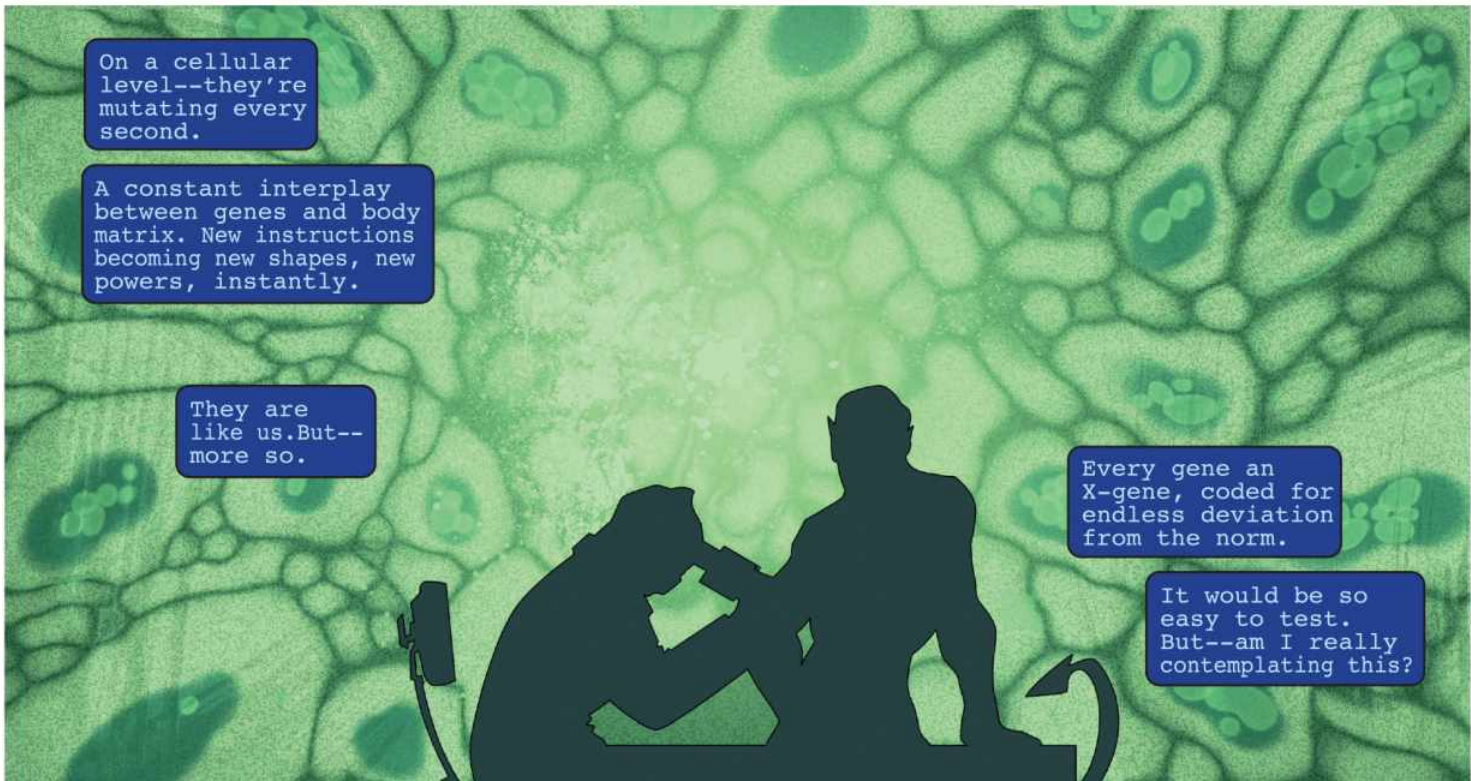
THE ACE
IN THE HOLE.
THE SECRET
WEAPON SCOTT
WANTED.

I THINK
I MAY HAVE
FOUND
IT.



The first part--the first part was obvious, once Kurt pointed it out to me.

The instability of the Skrull tissue samples. The insane variation.



On a cellular level--they're mutating every second.

A constant interplay between genes and body matrix. New instructions becoming new shapes, new powers, instantly.

They are like us. But--more so.

Every gene an X-gene, coded for endless deviation from the norm.

It would be so easy to test. But--am I really contemplating this?



Am I?

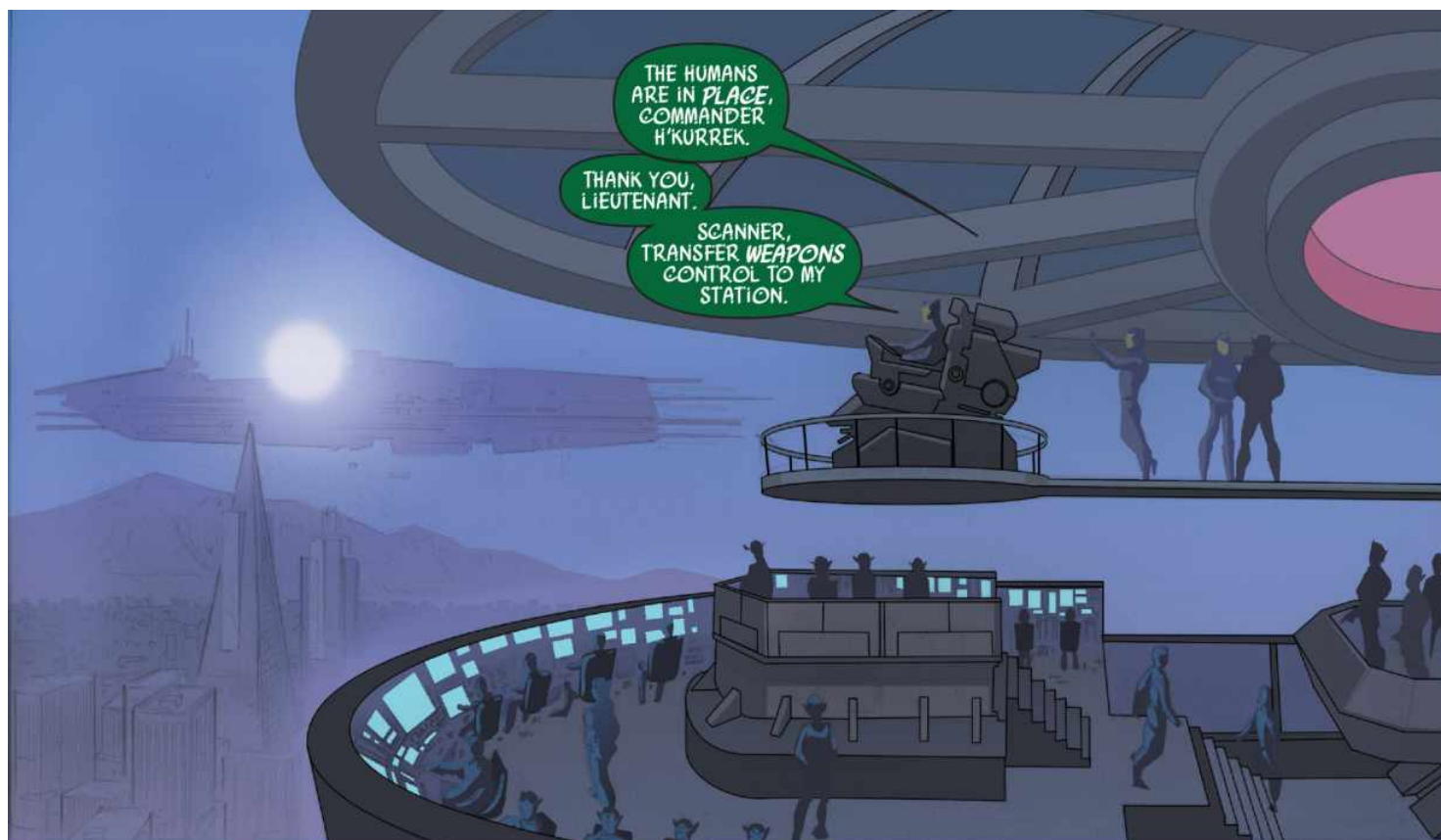
Opening that Pandora's box again, when it cost us so much to close it the last time?



Oh God.

Dear God.

Oh God,



THE HUMANS
ARE IN *PLACE*,
COMMANDER
H'KURREK.

THANK YOU,
LIEUTENANT.

SCANNER,
TRANSFER *WEAPONS*
CONTROL TO MY
STATION.



TELL ME,
JASH. WHAT *HONOR*
IS THERE IN KILLING
AN UNARMED MAN
OR WOMAN?

OR
A *CHILD*,
SAY?

THAT *DEPENDS*,
COMMANDER.

ON
WHAT?



ON WHAT
IS *ACCOMPLISHED*
BY THE DEATH. *HONOR*
IS MEASURED IN TERMS
OF *VICTORIES*.

SPOKEN
LIKE A TRUE
SON OF THE
EMPIRE.

AN *EXAMPLE*,
COMMANDER?
TO PACIFY THE
REST OF THE
POPULATION.

AND
WHAT WILL BE
ACCOMPLISHED BY
THESE DEATHS, DO
YOU THINK?

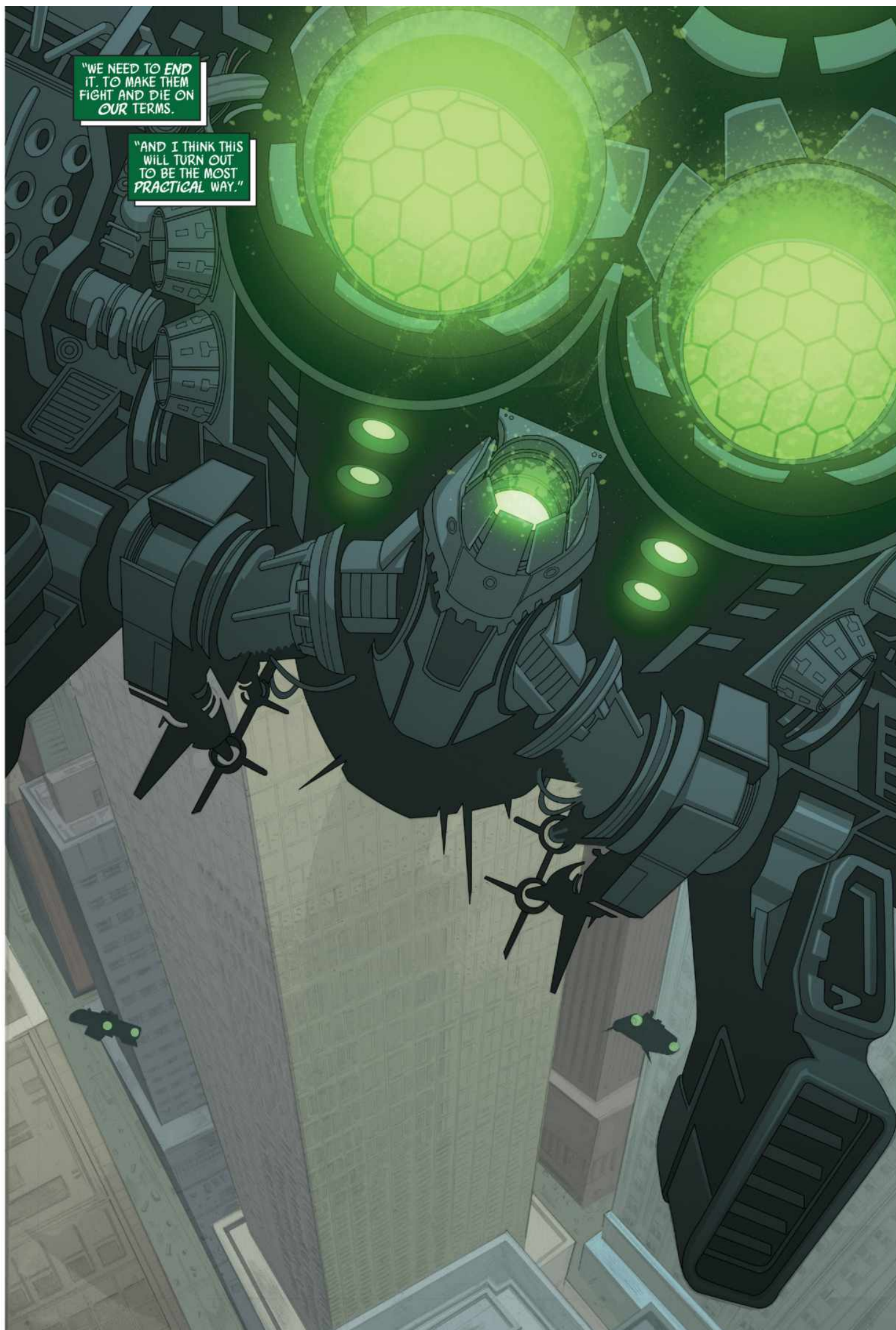


A GOOD
GUESS, BUT NO.
TAKE HER *DOWN*.
HELMSMAN. GUNNERY
TEAMS, PORTS ARE
OPEN AND YOU
ARE ALPHA
ACTIVE.

MY CONCERN,
JASH, IS WITH THE
X-MEN. WITH THEIR
GUERRILLA WAR
AGAINST US.

"WE NEED TO *END*
IT. TO MAKE THEM
FIGHT AND DIE ON
OUR TERMS."

"AND I THINK THIS
WILL TURN OUT
TO BE THE MOST
PRACTICAL WAY."





THEY
SEALED
THE DOORS?
WELDED THEM
SHUT?

THEN THIS
ISN'T TEMPORARY
INTERMENT.
IT'S SOMETHING
ELSE.



MAYBE THEY
JUST WANT THE
PEOPLE OFF THE
STREETS?

THEY
COULD HAVE
DONE THAT WITH
A **CURFEW**.

PRODIGY,
WHAT'S THE
MOTHER-SHIP
DOING?

IT'S COMING
DOWN, CYCLOPS.
A THOUSAND FEET--
EIGHT HUNDRED.

IT'S
HOVERING
RIGHT ABOVE
THE **CITY**.



I DON'T
LIKE THIS. I
WANT THAT SHIP
TAKEN OUT.



HOW? IT'S
GOING TO BE
PACKED WALL-TO-
WALL WITH **SUPER-
SKRULLS**.

WE DON'T
HAVE A THING
TO **THROW** AT
THEM.



YES WE
DO.

WE'VE GOT
THIS.



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NEXT ISSUE

